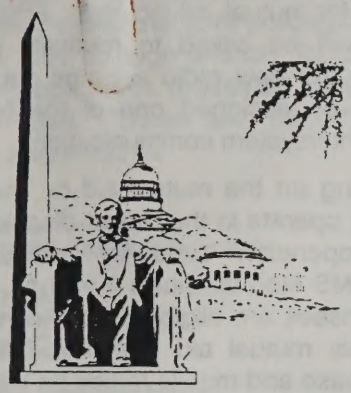

The CAPITOL HILL MONITOR

JANUARY 1994

A NEW FRONTIER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO SYSTEMS

Numerous Jurisdictions Seek Trunked Radio Systems... And More Bad News for Scanner Listeners

by Alan Henney

In November's newsletter we profiled several 800 MHz radio systems used by area local governments. This month we journey into the not-so-distant future where local governments will implement state-of-the-art radio systems in the new 866-869/821-824 MHz band.

For example, Baltimore Firefighter/Inspector Chuck Hutchinson says the City of Baltimore city is seeking an inexpensive General Electric or Motorola trunked radio system. Fire, police and possibly the public works, Chuck expects, will initially operate on the system that the city is expected to fund with municipal bonds.

Specifications for Baltimore's system have yet to be written, which indicates it may not be operational for at least a year or probably longer. Fire channels 1 and 5, 154.31 and 154.415, would probably simulcast parts of the trunked system, Chuck notes, although no plans have been finalized. Like many area local governments, the frequencies for Baltimore's proposed radio system come from the 866-869/821-824 MHz band which have been granted under what the FCC calls the "Public Safety National Plan."

Background

The 866-869/821-824 MHz band has a different history from that of the public safety bands. On Dec. 8, 1983, Congress directed the FCC to develop a plan to ensure that present and future electromagnetic spectrum requirements of public safety users are considered in the allocation of new spectrum. In response, the FCC issued a report & order which reserved six megahertz of spectrum, 230 channel pairs, in the 866-869/821-824 MHz band, for a "national plan."

By December of 1987 the commission had adopted policies, service rules and technical standards to govern the use of this new spectrum, placing special emphasis on interoperability and spectrum efficiency. The new spectrum, the FCC decided, would not be available for assignment until regional committees could be established to develop regional plans.

The FCC envisions the National Plan as a "spectrum management scheme which includes policy guidelines, technical standards and procedures to satisfy public safety communications requirements for the foreseeable future." The 866-869/821-824 MHz band will be to the mid-1990s as the 470-512 MHz band was to the early 1980s.

The Regional Planning Process

In the past, coordination efforts were generally more reactive. A police or fire department needing a frequency, for example, submitted a request to a national coordinator, such as APCO, who then tried to grant the request. In the 866-869/821-824 MHz band the FCC wanted a pro-active grassroots approach to the coordination process which would be accomplished on the local level by regional planning committees (RPCs). APCO still plays a role in the process, but not as significantly as they did in the past.

The National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee (NPSPAC) was established as a national body to oversee the 54 newly established RPCs throughout the nation. The RPCs, composed of telecom experts from the public safety and special emergency community within each region, coordinate frequencies in this band while creating the region's "plan."

The regional planners take into consideration the needs of public safety users within each area when drafting the region's plan. These RPCs consider various factors, such as population and geography, when assigning radio channels within the region. Each jurisdiction is encouraged to participate in the planning process and to request frequencies for proposed radio systems.

The six megahertz controlled by the RPCs in many cases will supplement older public safety radio systems and often existing 800 MHz trunked systems. Arlington and Baltimore Counties, for example, are expected to incorporate their

newly allocated frequencies into existing trunked systems.

Since frequencies in this band are spaced by 12.5 KHz increments, RPCs must carefully allocate frequencies and apply good engineering practices, such as limiting transmitter power, to reduce interference.

The NPSPAC RPC for Maryland, the District and northern Virginia (Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William and Stafford counties and Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park) is known as Region 20. The remainder of Virginia lies in Region 42. Region 28 covers all of Delaware and parts of New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The Frequencies and The New Systems

Trunking is required for any user who licenses more than four of these channels. Exceptions may be granted for telemetry, mobile data or encryption. Only the repeater outputs are listed in this article. As with the other 800 MHz channels, repeater inputs are 45 MHz lower than the corresponding output.

As expected, most new systems will be high-tech, state-of-the-art radio systems employing digital transmission formats, such as GE's EDACS. Most frequencies incorporated into existing trunked systems, and the national mutual aid channels, however, will remain analog FM.

The latest frequencies assigned to area public safety users under the Region 20 plan appear below. The Delaware frequencies come from the Region 28 plan (see the September issue for more details).

Dr. Michael C. Trahos, a NARTE certified first-class telecommunications engineer and a family practice physician in Alexandria is chairman of the Region 20 RPC Legislative/Regulatory Affairs Committee and a member of the Technical (application) Committee which assigns the frequencies.

Until all applications for frequency assignments are approved, Michael emphasizes, these channel assignments remain tentative and are subject to change. The coordination process, Michael stresses, remains a constant and contunual effort. Some frequencies allocated and even licensed to area jurisdictions in the 866-869/821-824 MHz band, for example, have already been reassigned.

Keep in mind that most of these systems are not yet in service. Fairfax County and the Metropolitan Airport Authority are reportedly testing trunked systems on their new frequencies. While some jurisdictions intend to build high-tech digital trunked systems using these new frequencies, others will merely append their allotted channels into existing radio systems. Many systems are expected to come on-line later this year.

National Channels

When drafting the Public Safety National Plan, interoperability was an important consideration. The FCC created a standard national mutual aid calling channel as well as four tactical channels for mutual aid incidents. Emergency Operations Centers will be asked to routinely monitor 866.0125 as soon as the new radio systems get going. Each jurisdiction will be assigned one of the four tac channels for primary intersystem communication.

Base stations operating on the mutual aid or "national" channels will normally operate in the repeat-disable mode with mobile relay operation capability available on demand (much like EMS Med channels 9 and 10, 462.95 and 462.975). All licensees are eligible to be licensed on all five of the national mutual aid channels. The FCC recommends that all base and mobile radios be equipped to operate on the five common channels, in analog FM, using a CTCSS tone of 156.7 Hz.

866.0125 Calling Channel
866.5125 Tac 1
867.0125 Tac 2
867.5125 Tac 3
868.0125 Tac 4

Regional INterservice Channels (RINS)

In addition to the FCC-mandated national channels, the Region 20 RPC designated an additional 13 channels as "regional interservice channels" (RINS). The committee, however, has before the FCC proposed amendments to the Region 20 plan which request RPC authority to reallocate any or all of the RINS channels, with the exception of 868.5125, should the committee determine the public interest would be better served by such a reassignment. If the FCC adopts the proposed amendments, the following RINS channels may or may not exist in the near future.

Regionwide

868.5125 RINS 15; Local Gov't and Emergency Mngt

Washington Area

866.3625 RINS 6; Law Enforcement
866.8375 RINS 8; Fire Service
867.2375 RINS 10; Public Works and Utilities
867.4875 RINS 12; Special Emergency Radio Service
866.8625 RINS 14; EMS
867.7625 RINS 17; Local Gov't and Emergency Mngt

Baltimore Area

866.1625 RINS 5; Law Enforcement
866.4125 RINS 7; Fire Service
867.3125 RINS 9; Public Works and Utilities
867.6625 RINS 11; Special Emergency Radio Service
867.3375 RINS 13; EMS
867.9625 RINS 16; Local Gov't and Emergency Mngt

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The District's fire department requested several frequencies for its own use. Unlike the other jurisdictions in Region 20, these frequencies are specifically marked for the fire department and not necessarily the entire District

government. The District already holds a license for a proposed 15-channel joint police/public works trunked system (856 through 860 on .2375, .7375, .9875), so the fire department requested several frequencies for its own use. These are: 866.275, 866.7, 866.725, 866.95 and 866.975.

Other initial assignments are:

MARYLAND

Allegany County

866.0875 and 868.9375

Anne Arundel County

866.4625, 866.7625, 868.325, 868.5875 and 868.8375

Baltimore City

866.1125, 866.2, 866.225, 866.35, 866.4375, 866.625, 866.6625, 866.825, 866.85, 866.875, 866.9, 866.9375, 867.15, 867.175, 867.2125, 867.4, 867.4375, 867.4625, 867.825, 867.9, 867.925, 867.9875, 868.1, 868.125, 868.15, 868.175, 868.2, 868.3, 868.45, 868.5625, 868.625, 868.7, 868.7375, 868.875 and 868.95

Baltimore County

866.2875, 866.9625, 866.9875 and 867.5875

Calvert County

866.9125, 867.1375, 867.1875, 867.25 and 868.35

Cecil County

867.3875 and 868.4125

Charles County

868.875

Dorchester County

866.3875

Frederick County

866.6125, 866.9125, 868.225, 868.475 and 868.75

Garrett County

868.9625

Harford County

867.425 and 868.3125

Montgomery County

866.2125, 866.3375, 866.4875, 866.65, 867.8375, 867.8875, 867.9125, 868.1125, 868.1625, 868.1875, 868.275, 868.3625, 868.3875, 868.4375, 868.6125, 868.6375, 868.6875, 868.8625, 868.8875 and 868.9375

Prince George's County

866.1, 866.1875, 866.2375, 866.6, 866.7875, 867.0875, 868.2375, 868.4625, 868.4875, 868.7625 and 868.9625

Saint Mary's County

868.9

Somerset County

866.125

Talbot County

868.8125

Washington County

866.25, 868.6625 and 868.9125

Wicomico County

866.15 and 868.95

Worcester County

868.85

State of Maryland

The State of Maryland notified the RPC that it has no intent to expand its currently proposed system to encompass the entire state. The state originally had wide-area channels set aside for state-use only. The state proposes instead to construct four systems concentrating on the following regions.

Central Maryland (Anne Arundel, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties)

866.0375, 866.0625, 866.5375, 866.5625, 867.0375, 867.0625, 867.5375, 867.5625, 867.6125, 867.6875, 867.7125, 867.7375, 867.8625, 868.0375, 868.0625, 868.4125, 868.5375, 868.6625, 868.8 and 868.9125

Northeast Maryland (Baltimore, Cecil, Harford and Kent Counties)

866.25, 866.2875, 866.3125, 866.775, 866.9625, 866.9875, 867.2625, 867.2875, 867.6375, 867.7875, 868.25 and 868.775

Northwest Maryland (Carroll and Frederick Counties)

866.1375, 866.375, 866.5875, 866.6875, 866.7125, 866.7375, 867.1125 and 867.3625

South Maryland (Calvert, Charles and Saint Mary's Counties)

866.2625, 866.325, 866.6375, 866.8125, 867.325, 868.2625, 868.2875 and 868.375

VIRGINIA

Alexandria

867.5875

Arlington County

868.7875

Fairfax County

866.125, 866.15, 866.3, 866.4, 866.425, 866.75, 867.125,

867.1625, 867.275, 867.3, 867.375, 867.4125, 867.65, 867.8125, 867.95, 867.975, 868.0875, 868.1375, 868.3125, 868.5, 868.575 and 868.825

Fauquier County

866.2, 866.9, 866.9375, 867.2125, 867.925, 868.2 and 868.7

Loudoun County

866.0875, 866.175, 866.45, 866.8, 868.175, 868.3375, 868.725 and 868.975

Metropolitan Airports Authority

866.675, 866.8875, 866.925, 867.2, 867.35, 867.4375, 867.4625 and 868.2125

Prince William County

866.7125, 867.675, 867.875, 867.9, 868.175 and 868.3375

Stafford County

866.0875

DELAWARE

Delaware's system is unique. The state proposes to create a statewide trunked radio system which it hopes will ultimately include most state, county, municipal government and volunteer fire departments. Delaware's system, one of the first digital trunked systems expected to come on-line, will probably be active later this year (refer to the September CHM for details).

Frequencies marked with an asterisk are tentative assignments and may be pre-empted by requests in adjacent regions. Delaware is part of Region 28, unlike the other regions covered by this article which are in Region 20.

Central Delaware (Kent County)

866.05, 866.175, 866.3375, 866.6125, 866.7875, 867.1875, 867.2375*, 867.4375, 867.7*, 868.15*, 868.575*, 868.7125, 868.9 and 868.9625

North Delaware (northern New Castle County)

866.075, 866.1, 866.425, 866.5875, 866.7, 868.375, 868.6625, 868.725, 868.9125 and 868.975

North Delaware (southern New Castle County)

866.125, 866.15, 866.375, 866.4, 866.65, 868.35, 868.6125, 868.6875, 868.8625 and 868.9375

South Delaware (Sussex County)

866.075*, 866.1*, 866.3625*, 866.475, 866.85, 867.1625, 867.275*, 867.65*, 867.675, 867.95*, 868.05, 868.275, 868.3625, 868.425*, 868.625, 868.675*, 868.875 and 868.925

GUARD BAND

The Region 20 RPC restricts the use of the following "guard band" channels to prevent interference. The RPC may eventually allow public safety operations on guard band channels in systems where satisfactory operation can be accomplished without causing co-channel or adjacent-channel interference. Many of these channels ultimately may be used for low-power communication.

866.05, 866.075, 866.55, 866.575, 867.05, 867.075, 867.55, 867.575, 868.05, 868.075, 868.525 and 868.9875

REGIONAL USE

The "regional-use" frequencies are unassigned high-power channels which the RPC may assign at a later date. These frequencies have not been assigned as of yet to avoid potential interference to proposed systems.

866.475, 866.875, 867.1, 867.225, 867.45, 867.475, 867.6, 867.625, 867.7, 867.725, 867.75, 867.775, 867.8, 867.85, 867.9375, 868.4, 868.425, 868.55, 868.6, 868.65, 868.675 and 868.925

Dr. Michael Trahos and David Abbou contributed to this article.

* * *

DC HOSPITALS GET NEW DISASTER NET FREQUENCY

The DC Hospital Association is in the process of switching the repeater frequency for the District's Hospital Emergency Network from 463.475 to 462.4. Only a few of the District's hospitals, Jim Burke says, have been switched to 462.4, and then only for testing purposes.

The net uses two CTCSS frequencies so the fire department doesn't have to monitor the net's traffic. One CTCSS, 77.0 Hz, links the net control, known as "clearinghouse," to the hospitals. A second CTCSS links the net control to the DC fire headquarters. The Georgetown University Medical Center is the primary net control, with Howard University Hospital designated as the back-up.

In the event of a mass casualty situation, at least in theory, the DC fire department would activate the network to notify medical facilities of the situation. The net control, throughout the emergency, would poll area hospitals to ascertain bed availability for the fire department.

Hospitals operating on the network include: Children's, Columbia, DC General, Georgetown, Greater Southeast, Hadley, Hospital for Sick Children, Howard, Providence, Sibley and the Washington Hospital Center. In addition to 462.4 and 463.475, the DC Hospital Association holds a license on the 10 med channels.

* * *

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY TO START MED-FLIGHT PROGRAM

Also from Jim Burke comes word that the Georgetown University Medical Center plans to start a new air-transport program this month. Scanner listeners can expect another med-evac frequency dedicated for this helicopter in service shortly. So stay tuned!

* * *

FIRE BUFF UPDATES

If all goes as planned, by the time you read this newsletter, the Citywide Radio public safety incident notification system "fire buff" repeater will have switched from 462.15 to 452.975. Not only does Citywide switch frequencies, but it also changes repeater sites, from Bethesda to WRC's tower in northwest Washington. Much to the delight of scanner listeners, Citywide users have been asked to use "plain English" to describe incidents (no more New York-style radio codes).

Citywide members will have two CTCSS frequencies available on the new repeater: 103.5 Hz for primary notification, and 167.9 Hz as the "non-incident and nighttime channel" which allows members to monitor the primary channel throughout the night (11 p.m. to 7 a.m.) without being awakened by non-essential traffic.

Citywide Radio by itself may not be eligible to operate on 452.975 or 453.0, the only two UHF relay-press repeater channels. So, the license for the repeater frequency, indicates a letter from Washington News Network mailed to Citywide members, is held by WNN, which says it will allow Citywide Radio to share use of 452.975. Walter Gold indicates that his WNN is also licensed on 453.0, but 452.975 will be the only repeater frequency made available to Citywide Radio users at the present time.

"All Citywide members," the letter reads, "will be either paid or credited $1-a-year to be news 'tipsters' for WNN so that the spirit of our new frequency, which is reserved for 'press relay,' can be maintained. Our new frequency [452.975] and repeater, owned by WNN, will have limited users and a much better radio range [than the 462.15 repeater]."

WNN says it's paying most of the costs associated with the new repeater and requests it be given the "right-of-way" for air traffic. Only the DCFD canteen unit, Car 5, the letter says, may pre-empt repeater users during a fire emergency.

WRC-TV, according to WNN's letter, has joined Citywide Radio -- an interesting twist, especially since Sheldon Levy, Citywide's founder, is an overnight photographer for WUSA-TV. "All Citywide Radio members are encouraged to assist WRC-TV by providing accurate public safety news information on a timely basis when requested..." the letter says. "WRC-TV will be provided with a base station, which probably will be designated 'Newsbase 4.' This agreement will in no way prevent other television or radio stations, or other bona fide news organizations, from joining and using Citywide Radio."

In other fire buff-related news, the Public Safety Network (PSN) incident notification paging system marked its first year of operation on Jan. 15. During the past year, the Washington-Baltimore area fire buffs have witnessed the birth of three alphanumeric paging systems: PSN, which is closely linked with Metropolitan Radio Service (462.0); Baltimore Metro Dispatch (BMD); and FireCom, which is affiliated with Citywide Radio (452.975). If FireCom is successful, says Vito Maggiolo, one of its founders, a news-oriented paging service, tentatively named News-Com, could be in the works.

Refer to the November CHM newsletter for contact information and more details regarding any of the Washington-Baltimore area fire buff notification repeater and paging systems.

* * *

NEWSSCAN

By Brent Baker

CHIP FORTE, an independent overnight news cameraman, received a flattering write-up in December's Washingtonian. Forte, the magazine said, "has been chasing shootings, stabbings, fires, and traffic accidents from midnight to dawn for more than ten years, providing footage for local stations and national networks that don't employ overnight camera crews. Unlike competitors, most of whom have come and gone, Forte doesn't show much gore."

Although Forte could get more money from a single buyer looking for an exclusive, the article says Forte "prefers to

make his work available at a standard rate to all of his Teleforte Communications subscribers. One station puts the price at $200." The Washingtonian described Forte as a "bachelor who works seven nights a week" and drives around in a four-wheel-drive truck that's a mobile newsroom, complete with editing equipment.

Forte, and his professional colleagues, the Washingtonian noted, face increased competition from citizens who are "coming out of the woodwork with their home video cameras."

COMING SOON: BETTER TRAINED DC POLICE OFFICERS. A late November article in the Washington Times was one of few which had positive comments to say about the Metropolitan Police Department in recent weeks.

According to the Times, 45 police recruits recently completed a new four-week phase of training at the Quantico Marine Corps base. "The Police Department," wrote Times reporter Brian Reilly, "has decided to go back to basics with a training regimen in which military-type camaraderie and discipline are instilled in recruits early in their training. For a month, the trainees bunked together in barracks on the base rather than go home at the end of the day."

MPD, the article stated, "is combing the nation for more mature, college-educated and preferably military-trained men and women. The recruits are then submitted to the most intense training regimen in the history of the Metropolitan Police Department. 'We're going to see a recruit that is well educated, seasoned and disciplined and really wants the job, and we're going to spend a lot of time educating them and making them more effective,' Police Chief Fred Thomas said in an interview..."

"The average age of the two classes now at the Metropolitan Police Training Academy in Southwest is 27," the Times observed, "compared with 21 in recent years."

"Since he took command of the Metropolitan Police Department in January," the Times noted, "Chief Thomas has labored to polish the image of the 4,200-member force. He believes the department made a number of costly mistakes in the late 1980s and in 1990, when it hired thousands of young officers with inadequate background checks and abbreviated training. 'If we had to do it again, some of them would not make the selection,' Robert Jordan, the director of Police Department personnel, said of the thousands of officers hired during that period. About 54 percent of the current force was hired during that time."

"Police officers and officials privately deride Chief Thomas for failing to streamline the department's balky bureaucracy," the Times said. "Politicians chide him for failing to hold down the rate of violent crime. A recent jump in the number of fatal shootings punctured his prediction that the homicide rate would drop this year. But politicians and police agree that Chief Thomas, the former police training director, has steadily improved recruitment, training, and, once they are aboard, the effectiveness of DC police officers."

"We're making some progress," Chief Thomas told the Times, "but we are nowhere near where we want to be," noting that several programs to retrain active officers and officials are not yet in place.

"While many changes have been made in recruit training," the article said, "their effectiveness can't be gauged until next year, when the new recruits patrol the streets. 'We haven't seen anything because we haven't seen the product yet,' said Ron Robertson, the vice president of the police officer's labor union. 'But the changes will go a long way to help new recruits and give them a better insight into what is expected of them.' The first academy class of recruits trained at Quantico will complete its full 24-week training session in February, followed by the graduation of a second class in April."

"After a new entrance exam is administered next month - possibly to as many as 6,000 candidates - 'a steady stream' of trainees should pass through the police academy during 1994, said Chief Christian, with a class of 25 new recruits starting every two weeks. By the end of the year, he said, the department will have 300 new officers available for patrol, bringing its strength up to the authorized level of 4,500."

"'Discipline is a key ingredient,' said Steve Cass, a former US Army lieutenant colonel who directs new recruit training. It was a lack of personal discipline, police officials agree, that resulted in a record number - nearly 30 - officers being indicted last year by the US attorney for the District. There have been at least 22 indictments so far this year, with more than 70 officers under grand jury investigations," observed the Times. "A lack of professional discipline, officials say, also resulted in a series of police shootings earlier this year, many of which are under investigation by grand juries."

According to the Times, Jordan envisions "the new breed" of DC police officer as similar to "the polished image of a state trooper: an officer of the law who commands respect but does not hesitate to lend a friendly hand. 'When they approach you, you know they are well trained,' he said of state troopers. They are all business when they pull over a speeder, for example, but often take time to help a motorist change a tire."

"The Quantico Marine base is about 35 miles south of the Metropolitan Police Training Academy in Southwest. Its 60,000 acres resemble a sprawling vacation resort tucked between Prince William and Stafford counties, a sharp contrast to the spartan, concrete walls of the department's city academy, which could be mistaken for a high school campus stuck in an industrial park by the Blue Plains sewage treatment plant in Southwest."

"But for the 45 recruits who spent four weeks out of their six-month training program at the military base, the experience was no holiday. Bed checks were at 7 a.m.,

calisthenics at 8 a.m., followed by an hour workout in the gym, wrestling and practice of arrest and defensive tactics. The recruits could then train at the base's urban obstacle course designed for simulated hostage rescues by the FBI.... After the sweating and shouting came the showers, followed shortly by studying. Classes began at 10 a.m. and continued after lunch until the early evening. At 7:30 p.m., they had "free time," but not off the base."

"While Chief Fred Thomas has been chided for failing to streamline the department's bureaucracy or lower the rate of violent crime," the Times reported, "he has received unanimous acclaim for restructuring the department's hiring and training. Here are some of the promises he made when he took command of the 4,200-member force in January and has since kept."

Done as promised:

1. Intensified the training process, with four weeks of residential training for recruits at the US Marine Base at Quantico.

2. Expanded a personnel outreach program to recruit new officers from college campuses and closed military bases.

3. Hired new civilian directors for both the training and recruitment offices.

4. Developed a new entrance exam that will cover writing skills and reasoning as opposed to the old exam that only tested English competency.

5. Increased the length of background investigations of new recruits and increased the number of investigators to 21.

6. Upgraded the status of the department's Internal Affairs Division and dramatically increased its size.

7. Started an internship program for college students.

8. Twelve of 40 retired officers who applied to return to the department as field trainers have passed their physical tests and should join the department in coming weeks.

Promises to keep:

1. Accreditation of the training program by an independent agency.

2. Set up an ongoing, internal training program for all officers.

SPY STEALS NSA FREQUENCY LIST. A Dec. 13 issue of Time magazine featured an article regarding Jonathan Pollard, the former US Navy intelligence analyst sentenced in 1986 to life in prison for spying for the Israelis. According to Time "one document Pollard is believed to have slipped to the Israelis -- thought to have landed in Soviet hands, albeit unintentionally -- was a huge National Security Agency compendium of frequencies used by foreign military and intelligence services."

"Gathering this information cost the US billions of dollars," the article noted, "but Pollard rendered it useless. Officials assume countries that knew their frequencies had been discovered used them for disinformation. Additionally, officials fear the data in the book were so specific that its discovery may have cost informants their lives."

Thanks to Dr. Willard Hardman and Dave Statter who contributed to this month's NewsScan.

* * *

BOOK REVIEW: LES MATTSON'S DICTIONARY OF SCANNER TERMS, SLANG AND ABBREVIATIONS

by Alan Henney

If you've been monitoring for several years, you've encountered abbreviations and certain terms which still, to this day, drive you nuts! Perhaps a medical run dispatched as a "CVA," or a police officer leaving the scene of a call stating that the "individual was GOA" or a Coast Guard vessel requesting the "number of POBs?"

While you'll never find a book which contains every possible scanner term or abbreviation, especially since they vary significantly on a regional basis, Les's glossyred 110-page $15 book might be just what you need! His handbook will tell you that a "CVA" is cerebral vascular accident (stroke); "GOA" stands for gone on arrival and that "POB" is a Coast Guard term for persons on board.

The book primarily covers public safety, including law enforcement terms (such as CDS, NCIC), fire, rescue and common EMS terms (CHF, DOA, MICU, PIA). You will also find hospital (DNR, triage, stat), media (IFB, SOT, VO) and some military and federal terms, slang and abbreviations as well. Les has always excelled in his ability to organize and mobilize large amounts of information. Northeast Scanning News and this handbook are perfect examples.

This month's review book was provided by the author, Les Mattson, founder and editor of Northeast Scanning News. To purchase a copy write to DX Radio Supply, PO Box 360-N, Wagontown, PA 19376 or call 215-273-7823. Views and comments appearing in this review do not necessarily reflect those of CHM or represent an endorsement.

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Please address all correspondence to Alan. We encourage readers to submit material and to write articles which relate to the hobby. All submissions are subject to editing for both style and content. When submitting material please make certain we have your phone number should we have any questions. We welcome frequency and visitor requests, but please include a SASE.

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The Capitol Hill Monitor is the non-profit monthly newsletter of the Capitol Hill Monitors. The newsletter keeps scanner enthusiasts abreast of local meetings, frequency profiles and other topics of interest. Dues (which includes 12 issues) are $8. Kindly make checks payable to Alan Henney.

Meeting Coordinators:

Mike Peyton, Maryland Coordinator (703-902-6241)
Ken Fowler, Virginia Coordinator (703-385-2165)

Capitol Hill Monitor's Scanner/Shortwave Net:

Listen for the CHM net, hosted by Ken Fowler, at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month on 146.91 MHz.

Frequency Forum Computer Bulletin Board:

We encourage computer users to log onto Jack Anderson's Frequency Forum computer BBS at 703-207-9622 (8-N-1). Frequency Forum is the official electronic gathering place for readers of the Capitol Hill Monitor.